

## APPENDIX II

### North Central Neighbourhood Profile: Synopsis

November 2002

#### 1. City Trends (Sask Health, 2001)

- 187,441 Regina Population
- 12,143 (6.5%) Registered Indians
- An additional 4,415 people said they were Metis in the 1996 Census.
- 38% of the Registered Indian Population is under 15
- Neighbourhoods with the highest Registered Indian populations are North Central, Core, North East, Al Ritchie, Rosemont/Mount Royal, Glencairn and Cathedral respectively

#### 2. North Central Assets

- Map of major services provided.
- 6 schools
- 10 school or park open space areas located west of Robinson St.
- Territorial Building and the Albert Scott Library are heritage buildings
- Fire station on Pasqua, Police Services operate NC Community Service Centre at Albert Scott
- 1 Outdoor pool plus Regina Fieldhouse & Leisure Centre
- Pasqua Hospital and Exhibition Grounds
- Concentrations of wider lots east of Elphinstone between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue; also in the crescents on the west side of the neighbourhood
- 96 of 2178 lots vacant. Zoning and suitability for residential development varies
- Traffic flows along Dewdney and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue are among the most intensive in the city. This presents some economic opportunities, but it is also a major challenge for maintaining the residential quality of the neighbourhood

#### 3. North Central Population

- 12,154 population in 2001; 3,886 of North Central Residents are Registered Indians (Sask Health data)
- In North Central, Males outnumber females: 6,421 to 5,733 respectively. The number of male and female children is about equal, but males outnumber females in every adult age group up until age 65. This trend is found in 7 of the 10 atoms in the neighbourhood. North Central housing may be suitable for single males, especially those with lower incomes who require rental housing. It may also be that women with families, including lone parents, are more mobile or tend to move out of the neighbourhood over time
- There are 3,060 children under 15 in North Central

- Atoms 26, 37, and 31, which are located between Albert Street and Elphinstone, have the highest population. They also have the highest numbers of children. All three of these areas have more than 200 children under the age of 5
- The numbers of Registered Indian children are high in all major areas except for the Parkdale & Windsor Place subdivisions in the northwest section of the neighbourhood

#### **4. North Central Neighbourhood: 1996 Census**

- 2,630 families
- 920 lone parent families (35%)
- Average family income for all families: \$27,545 vs. \$56,615 for Regina
- 50% of households below the Statistics Canada LIC vs. 18% for Regina
- 3,620 dwellings in North Central, including 2,075 single detached homes and 1,410 apartments and 110 semi-detached or row houses
- 755 (43%) of 1,745 tenant occupied dwellings spending more than 30% of income on housing. Average rent in 1996 was \$431
- Average value of owner-occupied dwellings: \$74,489 vs. \$88,113 for Regina

#### **5. Organizations**

- 40 organizations comprising about 10% of the agencies and programs listed in the Human Services database compiled by Regina Police Services have service facilities or mailing addresses in North Central neighbourhood

# North Central Community Partnership Qualitative Research Report March 2003

## Major Findings

### Background

In February 2003, Degelman Research was contracted by the Regina North Central Community Partnership to conduct focus groups among North Central community residents. Numerous topics were covered in the research including positive aspects of living in the community, main problems or concerns, and identification of programs and initiatives to address the major problems. Two focus groups were conducted on March 1, 2003. Following are the major findings.

### Most Positive Aspects of the North Central Community

Residents had no difficulty identifying things that they especially liked about the area. Those identified most often include the area's diversity and "color" in terms of landscape, architecture and cultures, as well as the area's central location. (These also were identified later in the discussions as residents' main bragging rights.) Other appealing aspects include the reasonable taxes and housing costs, and the friendliness of the area.

### Identification of the Major Problems

When asked to identify the major problems or concerns in the area, two problems dominated much of the discussions—crime and the housing conditions in the North Central community. While the image of North Central also topped the list of problems in both groups, it was surmised that its poor image is related to, or a result of, the level of crime and poor housing conditions in the area.

### Identification and Assessment of Possible Initiatives

#### Crime and Safety

The following were identified as the most effective ways of making the North Central Community safer:

- Improve policing in the area. Specifically, determine why the police response is so slow, and take steps to rectify the problem; extend the community police's hours, so that the police are working later into the night when most of the criminal activities are taking place; and, increase the police's presence on

the streets. It was suggested that this may mean revisiting the reasoning behind having the police's office in the Albert Scott Community Centre

- Develop programs and activities for youth, in order to keep them off the street and away from criminal activities. Specific suggestions are covered on the next page, under youth Issues
- Develop a Neighbourhood Watch type program, or encourage more involvement by residents. While there was some support for this type of initiative, sizable numbers did conclude that there may be little point in developing it further until the issue of policing is looked at

### Housing

The following were identified as the most effective ways of improving the housing conditions in North Central Regina:

- Make landlords more accountable. The idea of licensing landlords and penalizing those who fail to meet certain standards attracted strong support
- Provide home ownership opportunities to residents. Programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the Neighbourhood Home Ownership Program (NHOP) were raised by participants as positive examples of such programs
- Develop home renovation programs which encourage people to maintain their properties
- Revisit the City's Property/Yard Maintenance Bylaw to ensure that it is properly enforced by City officials

### Youth Issues

The following were identified as the most effective ways of keeping youth off the street:

- Keep the gyms open at night for recreational purposes
- Develop the computer labs at Scott Collegiate and the Albert Branch library
- Open an establishment like Regina North's "The Zone"
- Develop an art program with an eye to adorning the area's buildings
- Offer programs to develop youth's interest and skills in sports, music and the arts
- Have a regular Teens Night like the one in East Regina
- Have "drop-ins" at the local churches
- Develop a supervised latchkey program for children
- Have supervised events in the area's many parks

The following were identified as the most effective ways of keeping youth in school:

- Give students some sort of financial reward or merit points for attending school. For example, it was suggested that any such merit points could go toward buying things from the school's "store"

- Bring back the truant officer, whose job it would be to immediately follow up on the youth who are skipping school
- Get out the message that attending school is no longer optional
- Make it so that youth who drop out of school are ineligible for any form of social assistance
- Identify and target the children most at risk of becoming drop-outs. Develop programming for these children at a younger age, before it is too late

### Community Based Service Groups

Participants assumed that the service groups in North Central serve a purpose. In one of the focus groups, participants wondered if the various service groups are working cooperatively and communicating with one another on a regular basis. They surmised that a review might be in order (if one has not already been done) to identify each group's programs and targets. This was seen as a way of eliminating necessary duplication and identifying any missed needs.

Virtually none of the participants saw a need for a new community centre in North Central. These people argued that there is already one in place. While youth (including at-risk children) were viewed as the primary target of the community center, it was argued that programs should be offered for all area residents. Furthermore, it was felt that the community center should be both a social and program center.

Following are other closing suggestions made by participants regarding the community centre, and the service groups in general.

- Do a more extensive job of advertising what is available at the Albert Scott Community Centre, be it special programs or social events
- When renting out the facility or rooms to area residents, ensure that the rates are reasonable
- Ensure that there is no duplication of services among the various service groups
- Raise the residents' awareness of what is currently available through the various service groups in the area
- Ensure that any new programs or initiatives in the areas of crime and housing are promoted to area residents. (In fact, following completion of the focus groups, participant in both groups stayed behind to share information on current programs in the area.)
- Investigate the possibility of starting something like the, "North Central Club" with the sole purpose of raising funds for the good of the area and its residents

### Support for a Variety of Community Development Initiatives

When asked for ideas on what can be done to improve people's perceptions of North Central, participants conceded that people's perceptions cannot be

changed until there is proof that their perceptions are unfounded, or that the problems are being addressed (the main ones being crime and the condition of the area itself). Nevertheless, participants did come up with some things that area residents can do to improve the image of North Central Regina. These follow.

- Defend the area when it comes under attack, vocalizing the positives raised in the discussion
- Take part in a neighbourhood clean-up
- Come up with their own Mosaic Day or International Festival (in recognition of the cultural diversity)

The moderator also raised some possible ideas for improving the image of North Central Regina. Those gaining support in the groups are to get better reporting from the media, continue with the annual street festival, and develop a volunteer pool.

Participants reacted very negatively to the idea of the community changing its name. They also were opposed to the idea of developing a community logo to help represent what the community stands for. With respect to the logo, participants offered one of the following two arguments. First, North Central has to address the problems first, designing a logo is not going to change its image. Second, the money for designing logos and printing up materials could be better used to tackle the problems.

**Regina North Central Community Partnership  
Focus Group Sessions  
February 2003**

**Introduction**

In February 2003, Degelman Research was contracted by the Regina North Central Community Partnership to conduct focus groups among North Central community residents. The main intent of the focus groups was to provide in-depth exploring of the quantitative findings arising from the door-to-door interviews conducted from December to February 2003. The main topics covered in the research were:

- Most positive aspects of living in Regina's North Central community
- Major problems or concerns in the community
- Identification and assessment of possible initiatives to address the major problems
- Awareness of community-based service groups
- Perceived need for a new community centre
- Support for a variety of community development initiatives aimed at improving North Central's image, including block parties, festivals, a community newspaper, and a new name and logo for the community

A moderator's outline used to guide the focus groups was developed by Degelman Research, in consultation with an official from the Regina North Central Community Partnership. A copy of the outline is appended to this report.

Two focus groups were conducted on March 1, 2003. Sixteen people took part in the discussions, with each receiving a cash honorarium for their participation.

Participants were recruited at random using the completed surveys gathered in the earlier door-to-door interviews, and screened to ensure a balanced mix in terms of gender, age, and native ancestry. Furthermore, screens were in place to ensure that no one in the household was employed by an advertising, communications, public relations, market research, or community based service agency.

**Statement of Limitations**

Focus group sessions seek to develop insight and direction rather than quantitatively precise or absolute measures. By reason of the size of the groups, it is understood that the work is exploratory in nature. The findings cannot be projected to any larger population, but were developed for the purpose of qualitative rather than quantitative frame of reference. As such, the findings should be regarded as directional only.

## Demographic Profile of Participants

<b>Gender</b>		
Male		7
Female		9
<b>Age</b>		
Under 35		5
35 to 54		6
55 or over		5
<b>Household Make up</b>		
A couple with children in the home		5
A single parent		4
One or more singles with no children in the home		4
A couple with no children in the home		3
<b>Occupation</b>		
Professional/highly trained		1
Managerial/self-employed		3
Sales/clerical		1
Laborer		5
Student		1
Homemaker		1
Unemployed		3
Retired		1
<b>Ancestry</b>		
Canadian		3
Aboriginal		3
Swedish/Scottish		1
Dutch		1
Dutch/German		1
Irish/English		1
Scottish		1
English/Welsh		1
Asian		1
Ukrainian/English/German		1
European		1
English/Russian/German		1
<b>Number of Years Living in North Central Regina</b>		
Under 5 years		4
5 to 10 years		1
11 to 15 years		2
16 to 20 years		4
over 20 years		5

## Most Positive Aspects of the North Central Community

At the beginning of each discussion, group participants were asked to identify the most positive aspects of living in the North Central community. It is important to note that residents had no difficulty identifying things that they especially liked about the area. Those identified most often follow.

- The area is diverse and “colorful” in terms of landscape, architecture and cultures. It should be noted that this was identified later on in the discussions as one of the area’s main bragging rights

*“I like the variety in this area. In spite of the fact that there’s problems and stuff like that. I get into the newer areas and there’s just a blandness to them...no colour and the sameness of homes, and there are no trees. We also have so many backgrounds in this area.”*

*“There’s a lot of trees. There’s kind of a variety to the place in terms of homes and people (referring to the area). You don’t have to follow certain color schemes (referring to the homogeneity found in other areas).”*

*“I like the variety and the architecture here. There are a lot of interesting homes and buildings in this area.”*

*“I’d have to say I love the trees the most. There’s a very mature landscape.”*

*“Cultural diversity...it’s a very positive thing. You can sit on your front step and just watch the world go by.”*

*“We have a lot of cultural diversity in this area. We have the community center here, and no other area I know has that.”*

*“The cultural blend is very important. There’s more focus on it now.”*

*“I like the quality of the houses, and all of the differences in architecture and people.”*

- The area’s central location makes it very convenient for residents to access services or move about the city. This was also identified later in the discussions as a bragging right of residents

*“Geographically, it’s probably the most convenient place to live in. I can get anywhere I want to go within ten minutes. It doesn’t matter if it’s northwest, east, whatever.”*

*“I like the fact that, for me, it’s right near my family. My family is pretty much all in the northeast. It’s really convenient.”*

*“If you don’t have a vehicle, which is me, you can walk to Safeway, walk to Rosemont.”*

- The taxes and housing costs are reasonable.

*“The taxes are cheaper here than anywhere else.”*

*“The housing costs are lower. I know a lot of people just starting a family come here. Housing costs are lower and the rent is lower.”*

*“The taxes are cheap.”*

*“The house I’m living in is a nice-sized house. My sister pays almost \$600 a month for an apartment, and her apartment is half the size of my house.”*

- The area is friendly, and people get to know their neighbours. Most participants agreed with claims of this nature. Only a couple of people disagreed, claiming that it was hard to become acquainted with some of their neighbours as they tend to be transient.

*“I was thinking in terms of the people more. You get to know the people more in this area. There’s a sort of friendliness to it.”*

*“I think friendliness is the most positive thing (about the community), because I grew up around here. I know everyone living around me.”*

*“The people... we have awesome people.”*

*“Here, I know my neighbours. The residents on the block are friendly.”*

## **Identification of the Major Problems**

Participants were then asked to identify what they saw as being the major problems or concerns in their area. At this stage, two problems occupied much of the discussion - crime and the housing conditions in the North Central community.

While the image of North Central also topped the list of problems in both groups, it was surmised that its poor image is related to, or a result of, the level of crime and poor housing conditions in the area. Following are some of the opening remarks made on the major problems.

## Crime and Safety

*"We have a lot of vandalism and auto theft. A lot of this is due to the lack of response from the police. They're so slow to act."*

*"If the police were on their toes more..."*

*"If we had more policing in the area, we would have less crime. I, personally, would feel more safe. The store is three blocks away from my house, and I will not walk to that store by myself."*

*"My car's been busted up many times, many times."*

*"Vandalism is very serious in this area. I've been attacked by our next door neighbours. They were using needles."*

## Housing Conditions and Upkeep of the Area

*"This is associated with landlords. When it's a high rental area, the landlords live outside the community. They really don't care."*

*"There are a lot of negligent landlords."*

*"The problem is the slum landlords. The rental properties aren't maintained. As long as they (landlords) get a cheque, they don't really care what's going on inside."*

*"The slum landlords feed into the poverty. We need greater accountability from the people who own the property."*

*"This area is really rundown. If slum landlords were more responsible with their property and their clients, the neighbourhood would be cleaner and have a better image. They're all connected."*

## Image

*"Prostitution and drugs are connected with crime. It puts a really bad stigma on the area."*

*"People have a negative connotation of the area. I'll hear, 'Oh, you live there? Isn't the crime rate astronomical? Are you safe?'"*

*"My friends ask me, 'Why would you want to live there?' They're even scared to park right in front of my house."*

*“The image of North Central is...it’s the Crime Capital of the World, the Drug Haven of the World, the Prostitution Haven of the World. That’s the image that North Central has. It’s all a bunch of welfare bums that don’t want to get off their butts.”*

## **Identification and Assessment of Possible Initiatives**

### Crime and Safety

Participants were then asked to identify ways of making their community safer. A summary of the main initiatives raised and discussed in the two groups follow.

### Policing of the Area

The issue of policing arose on its own in both groups. Moreover, participants offered a number of suggestions for improving the policing of the area. These follow.

- Determine why the police response is so slow, and take the necessary steps to rectify the problem
- Extend the community police’s hours, so that the police are working later into the night, when most of the criminal activities are taking place. As one person noted, *“They (people committing the crimes) all know when the police office closes downstairs.”*
- Increase the police’s presence on the streets. It was suggested that this may mean revisiting the reasoning behind having the police’s office in the Albert Scott Community Centre. Following are some their comments regarding this topic

*“We need to get the police out of the office, and back onto the streets”*

*“I think they (police) have to show a stronger presence and take more of a proactive approach the crime in this area.”*

*“I think this is a follow-up center. They (police) just don’t get out.”*

*“They’re not actually physically out in the community.”*

*“How come they’re not out patrolling the area, instead of sitting in the office?”*

### Programs and Activities for Youth

There was strong agreement in both groups that there has to be more programs and activities directed at youth, in order to keep them off the street and away from criminal activities. Participants’ ideas which arose at this stage of the

discussions (before the issue of youth was even raised by the moderator) are outlined on the next page.

It should be noted that these initiatives gained widespread support when raised by participants. As one person noted, and others wholeheartedly agreed, *“It takes less money to run these (programs) than it takes to keep one kid in jail.”*

- Open all of the gyms at night to keep youth occupied. Participants acknowledged that this would require a pool of volunteers. As one person recalled, *“Back in the 1970’s, every single gym in this area was open. We had a dance in one gym, volleyball in another gym, basketball in another gym, something going on pretty much every night. They even had some of the classrooms open for those of us that weren’t athletically inclined. We could do the artsy-fartsy stuff.”*
- Consider opening a drug and alcohol-free establishment like “The Zone” which was introduced in north Regina for *“all those kids that were getting into trouble”*. According to one person’s assessment, *“Opening the Zone was an awesome idea. It’s absolutely phenomenal.”*
- Develop the computer labs at Scott Collegiate and the Albert Branch library, and direct them at youth. As one person noted, *“There’s a computer lab in Scott here that has the GED program on it, and it’s collecting dust.”*
- Develop some form of an art program whereby youth’s work, say in the form of murals, could be used to beautify the area’s buildings.

Participants’ other ideas for keeping youth off of the street (as well as in school) will be covered under Section 4.3 (Youth Issues).

#### Neighbourhood Watch/Greater Involvement by Area Residents

Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, which require involvement by area residents, arose without much prompting by the moderator. Moreover, some support was found for a Neighbourhood Watch type program. For example, sizable numbers in both groups indicated that they already do get involved, or implied that they would do so if something more formal were initiated.

It is critical to note that a number of participants appeared offended by the suggestion that they might not already be looking out for their neighbours or problems in their area. As one person observed, *“As far as neighbours helping neighbours, yeah, we do that.”* or as another one put it, *“I think we all do that automatically.”* Therefore, any announcement of programs encouraging greater involvement by residents to combat crime should congratulate any efforts already being made.

Despite the support, some problems were identified with such programs. For example, it was argued that reporting problems in the area (be it crimes or used needles) did little good given the slow response by the police. Moreover, sizable

numbers concluded that there may be little point in developing a Neighbourhood Watch type program until the issue of policing is looked at.

*"If there's a crime, it takes three hours to get a cop."*

*"I'm really not a big fan of phoning in because my personal experience with cops is, they don't even show up."*

*"When the police station was organized downstairs, it was seen as a heck of a good idea by people in this area. If they could get somebody down there to run it the way it was intended, we might get some action."*

It was also cautioned that problems can arise if and when residents take criminal matters into their own hands. For example, *"Yes, we do need people walking and checking on things and picking up needles, but be careful who you get to do that. It could turn into a vigilante riot. That's what happened almost twenty years ago...you're going to end up with massive wars."*

Finally, many argued that area residents may not want to get involved in a Citizens on Patrol type program for fear of retribution or vandalism. For example, *"People will be too scared, because somebody will find out where you live."* and, *"When you're looking for condoms and needles, you're going to see other things. You're going to recognize other things. They are going to recognize you and the ones that aren't necessarily the up and coming citizens of the city are going to take action to not have you intercept their lifestyle."*

### Curfew for Children

An idea which arose in one of the groups, and which gained fairly strong support, was to investigate the possibility of having a curfew for children under the age of say, fourteen. However, a couple of problems were anticipated with this idea, namely how to enforce the curfew and potential problems regarding its constitutionality, *"Will this be seen as an infringement of children's rights?"*

### Back Alley Lighting

The idea of better lighting, particularly in back alleys, was seen by many as a way of deterring crime. However, it attracted less enthusiasm than the other ideas discussed.

## **Housing**

Area residents were also asked to suggest initiatives which might improve the housing conditions in the North Central community. A summary of those initiatives attracting the most support follow.

### Making Landlords More Accountable

This idea drew widespread and very strong support. Within both groups, there was a call to make it mandatory for landlords to keep their houses up to a certain standard. The idea of licensing landlords also attracted strong support, without even being raised as a possibility by the moderator. Moreover, group participants felt there was a need to penalize landlords who failed to comply. The idea of the City of Regina repossessing the homes of negligent landlords and turning them over to residents (to be used under a Sweat Equity or Rent-to-Own type program) was seen as realistic.

### Providing Home Ownership Opportunities to Residents

Similarly, participants felt that providing homeownership opportunities to residents would improve housing conditions in their area. As such, strong support was found for Sweat Equity and Rent-to-Own type programs. Programs such as Habitat for Humanity and NHOP (Neighbourhood Home Ownership Program) were raised by participants as positive examples of such programs.

### Developing Home Renovation Programs

Participants supported programs which encourage people to maintain and improve their properties. While RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program) was raised as a positive example, it was advised that the qualifying income levels for homeowners should be reduced to allow more people to participate.

### Revisiting the City's Property/Yard Maintenance Bylaw

Participants seemed to feel that the City's bylaw regarding property or yard tidiness was having little impact in improving conditions in North Central Regina. The prevailing view was that the bylaw "*lacked teeth*", or proper enforcement and follow-up by City officials. As such, it was advised that the City of Regina should take a far stronger role in enforcing the bylaw.

### Establishing a Community Lending Chest

The idea of establishing a community lending chest was raised by the moderator after participants' own ideas had been discussed. This idea drew some support, although it was suggested that borrowers may have to pay an appropriate deposit to ensure that tools are returned.

### Conducting U-Do-It Type Workshops

The idea of conducting U-Do-It type workshops also was raised by the moderator. This idea was also seen as having merit. As one person explained,

*"I know a lot of single parents, moms and dads who would just love a program like that."* and, *"The landlord doesn't want to fix the washer, then fine, "I'll do it."* An offshoot of this idea was to develop a pool of "handymen" who would be prepared to do repairs for a reasonable (seen as below-market) fee.

## **Youth Issues**

As noted above, the idea of developing programs and activities aimed at keeping youth off the street arose earlier on in the discussions (under the discussion of crime and safety). Similarly, the idea of keeping the gyms open at night for recreational purposes arose on its own and drew considerable support. To recap, other earlier ideas which were discussed were developing the computer labs at Scott Collegiate and the Albert branch library, opening an establishment like Regina North's "The Zone", and developing an art program with an eye to adorning the area's buildings.

There were other ideas which arose later in the discussions with the intent of keeping youth off the street. These include the following:

- Offer programs to develop youth's interest and skills in sports, music and the arts
- Have a regular Teens Night like the one in East Regina
- Have "drop-ins" at the local churches
- Develop a supervised latchkey program for children
- Have supervised events in the area's many parks

Participants were also asked for ideas on keeping youth in school. Those ideas attracting the most support follow.

- Give students some sort of financial reward or merit points for attending school. For example, it was suggested that any such merit points could go toward buying things from the school's "store"
- Bring back the truant officer, whose job it would be to immediately follow up on the youth who are skipping school
- Get out the message that attending school is no longer optional
- Make it so that youth who drop out of school are ineligible for any form of social assistance
- Identify and target the children most at risk of becoming drop-outs. Develop programming for these children at a younger age, before it is too late

The idea of an aboriginal school system was then raised by the moderator for consideration. For the most part, people were opposed to the idea. It was argued that this may somehow lower the standard of education for aboriginal students, or not provide them with the skills they need. Following are participants' comments.

*“I think they’ve already lowered the standard of education in this area. You have to keep the standards high, because the kids absolutely have to have a good education to get out of this mess.”*

*“Your core curriculum (under an aboriginal school system), although it may be First Nations culturally based, it’s not meeting the needs of what they (students) need when they get off of the reserve and into the community.”*

*“There would be no standardization. The problems with the reserve schools is, how they are run depends entirely on what family has control of the band office at the time.”*

*“Some of the reserve schools just don’t work...the kids hate it there. There’s no programs. Some of the funding isn’t there. They’re not getting the education they need.”*

Others saw the move as a form of segregation.

*“I think this would be taking us back to square one in terms of discrimination and segregation.”*

*“How are we ever going to learn to get along if we don’t associate with one another?”*

*“I don’t think there should be any special treatment for any group.”*

## **Community Based Service Groups**

Participants were then asked to name any community-based service groups in North Central Regina. As shown in the list below, seven service groups were top-of-mind. In fact, three service groups were named in both focus groups - the Rainbow Youth Centre, the Friendship Centre, and the Indian Metis Christian Fellowship.

- Rainbow Youth Centre (mentioned in both groups)
- Friendship Centre (mentioned in both groups)
- Indian Metis Christian Fellowship (mentioned in both groups)
- Street Culture (mentioned in one group)
- Inter City Children and Youth Recreational Program (mentioned in one group)
- Aboriginal Family Service Centre (mentioned in one group)
- Four Direction Health Centre (mentioned in one group)

This might appear to suggest that there is a low level of awareness surrounding the other forty service groups. However, this may not necessarily be the case, given the limited amount of time devoted to this topic in the focus groups.

Participants assumed that the service groups in North Central do serve a purpose, otherwise they would not exist. In one of the focus groups, participants wondered if the various service groups are working cooperatively and communicating with one another on a regular basis. They surmised that a review might be in order (if one has not already been done) to identify each group's programs and targets. This was seen as a way of eliminating necessary duplication and identifying any missed needs.

Participants did seem to feel that there are services missing from the North Central community, such as programs aimed at children at risk to drop out of school or commit crimes. Workshops for area residents on such things as household maintenance, parenting and budgeting were also identified as services which may be missing from the community.

With respect to the issue of programming for at risk children, it was estimated that there are a number of these children in any given school who could benefit from a "Big Sister" or "Big Brother" who acts as a mentor and follows up on these children's whereabouts and activities. It was felt that such a person or agency may have to be paid in order to get the required commitment.

Virtually none of the participants saw a need for a new community center in North Central. These people argued that there is already one in place (the Albert Scott Community Centre in which the focus groups were held).

While youth (including at risk children) were viewed as the primary target of the community centre, it was argued that programs should be offered for all area residents. Furthermore, it was felt that the community centre should be both a social and program centre which could potentially offer programs on such things as household maintenance, budgeting and parenting (if not already covered by other service groups in the area).

Following are other closing suggestions made by participants regarding the community centre, and the service groups in general.

- Do a more extensive job of advertising what is available at the Albert Scott Community Centre, be it special programs or social events
- When renting out the facility or rooms to area residents, ensure that the rates are reasonable
- Ensure that there is no duplication of services among the various service groups. As one person noted, and others readily agreed, "*There are only so many funds to go around.*"
- Raise the residents' awareness of what is currently available through the various service groups in the area
- Ensure that any new programs or initiatives in the areas of crime and housing are promoted to area residents. (In fact, following completion of the focus groups, participant in both groups stayed behind to share information on current programs in the area.)

- Investigate the possibility of starting something like the, “North Central Club” with the sole purpose of raising funds for the good of the area and its residents

### **Support for a Variety of Community Development Initiatives**

Participants were asked for their impressions of how the rest of Regina sees the North Central Community. All participants offered negative comments, with frequent references made to the area being seen as unsafe, “*scummy*”, and “*skuzzy*”.

Participants were then asked for ideas on what can be done to improve people’s perceptions of North Central. Participants conceded that people’s perceptions cannot be changed until there is proof that their perceptions are unfounded, or that the problems are being addressed (the main ones being crime and the condition of the area itself).

Nevertheless, participants did come up with some things that area residents can do to improve the image of North Central Regina. These follow.

- Defend the area when it comes under attack, by vocalizing some of the positives raised in the discussion
- Take part in a neighbourhood clean-up
- Come up with their own Mosaic Day or International Festival (in recognition of the cultural diversity). As one person noted, and others agreed, “*It shouldn’t be just for Aboriginals, it should be for the entire area.*”

The moderator later raised the following ideas for consideration:

**Media reporting** - participants seemed to agree that the media could do a better job of covering the area. For example, it was suggested that the media should provide coverage of events in the area, as well as new initiatives aimed at dealing with the problems.

**Annual street festival** - participants also liked the idea of an annual street festival, adding that they already have one on National Aboriginal Day which is a success.

**Block parties** - this idea sparked laughter and wisecracks in both groups. To paraphrase a number of participants, “*There’s one on my block every few nights... every Friday night.*”

**Community newspaper** - while participants in one group said that a community newspaper would never get read, those in the other group said that they already have one (called “North Central Community News”).

**Volunteer pool** - participants reacted very positively to this idea. As one person observed, “*When we do something major like, for example, the National Aboriginal Day, we block off Albert Street to Elphinstone and it turns out to be one awesome, terrific party. No alcohol, no drugs. Everybody has a good time.*”

*When the community plans to do something together, it's done, and it's done well", or as another put it, "They (reference made to the community in general) pull together, although not as much as the Cathedral area."*

Participants reacted very negatively to the idea of the community changing its name. As people observed, *"There's nothing wrong with the name, it's the image,"* and *"People have to deal with the problems, not window dress."* Others simply saw a name change as a way of unnecessarily altering the area's identity. As one person simply stated, *"North Central is who we are."* Opposition to dividing the area into two or three smaller areas with different names also drew similar criticisms.

Participants also opposed the idea of developing a community logo or symbol to help represent what the community stands for. Participants offered one of the following two arguments. First, North Central has to address the problems first, designing a logo is not going to change its image. Second, the money for designing logos and printing up materials could be better used to tackle the problems.

Despite their opposition to the idea of a logo, group participants were asked for their ideas on appropriate themes or logos. While a variety of suggestions were offered, many centered around the character and diversity of the area (in terms of both the people and the architecture), and the area's many parks and developed trees.

### **Closing Recommendations Put Forth by Group Participants**

At the end of each discussion, participants were asked to consider all of the ideas raised in the discussion, and offer their recommendations on which ones should be pursued. It should be noted that participants were instructed to rank order their recommendations on the basis of importance.

As shown by the written recommendations which follow, participants recommended changes to policing in the area, and raised specific initiatives to deal with youth and housing issues.

#### Post discussion questionnaire responses

*We've discussed a lot of ideas for improving and developing North Central Regina. Please list those which you feel should be pursued*

- Have to work on the youth problems - supervised playgrounds, "parent" groups to help with (and identify) problems and high risk youth. You have to prevent the problems before they happen, otherwise it may be too late

- Keep kids in school! This is absolutely critical! If they have serious behavior problems, have help available
- Lack of police presence in the area is a problem. We need more committed officers and more patrolling
- Keeping youth from committing crimes could be reduced with more community programs like after school drop-in centers
- Crime - better policing, more active involvement of local residents. Get a formal Neighbourhood Watch up and running
- Poor housing - have government programs to enable residents to purchase their own homes. People will take better care of their homes
- Youth gangs and prostitution - identify (criminal) anti-social youth, reach out to them to meet their needs and provide them counseling, etc.
- Landlords - have the City of Regina make bylaws concerning the upkeep of property. The bylaw has to have some teeth (fines or confiscation of property)
- Target troubled young people for intervention
- Extend hours of policing and get them out of the office and into the community. This is the only way they're going to really make a difference
- Policing - if we have more policing, we would have less crime and those of us who live here would feel safer. More police patrolling would make a large, positive impact
- Getting more homeowners in the area - if we had more homeowners in the area, people would have more respect for their property. We would make a larger effort to keep the neighbourhood clean if we owned the property
- Focusing and reaching out to at risk kids. Setting up programs that would help them learn a trade, help them in school. Consider rewarding them for coming to school and disciplining them if they don't, this is a very good idea
- Police presence issue - revisit original concept of police service station. Put the officers back on the street for improved presence
- Community appearance and upkeep. Better enforcement of existing bylaws. Have city repair dumpsters and continually repair them after fires by having fire department report location of burnt dumpsters the following business day
- Improved controls for housing issues, be it home ownership or rental housing upkeep
- Improve the police station at Albert Scott to be opened at night from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. for more prompt service. What good is Neighbourhood Watch, if the police never come out?
- More cops on the road
- More of these sessions so that new ideas can be found and talked about
- Different ways to keep kids off the street and busy
- Crime - get the police out of Albert Scott building and put them on the street
- Get some sort of bylaw for slum landlords. Get rid of them!
- Strike up a committee to clean up the main problems of the area. Forget about any symbol or new look for NC until we clean up our act

- Poverty - increase basic allowance for welfare, but teach people how to use the money more responsibly
- Crime - open gyms and classrooms to offer alternatives to being on the street. Offer parenting classes for both male and female parents. Offer supports for parents who want help, but consequences for those who don't try
- Slum housing - city to hold landlords accountable for properties
- Vandalism - hold guilty more accountable (restitution)
- If kids don't attend school, they don't get welfare; educate for responsible use of energy, water, etc. Limit number of children to which will receive funding from government
- Community police - work directly out of Albert Scott, respond from this location. Should be open at night when the crimes are committed
- Cooperation with others in the community to work at the problems and identify solutions. There should be more discussions like this
- Get rid of slum landlords
- Have to keep our youth off the street and out of trouble, like the idea of having gyms, etc. open to deal with this
- Surroundings - needs programs like Habitat for Humanity, deal with the slum landlords, they have to be held accountable towards the community and the folks they rent to
- Community services - make sure there is no overlapping of services, better use of funding can cover more ground
- Rental properties/slum landlords - do whatever it takes to make the landlords more accountable, they have to fix/maintain property or face immediate repercussion, loss of license/house, etc.
- Homeownership - make North Central a place people want to live in; 1<sup>st</sup> time homeowner option, sweat equity a great idea
- Drugs/prostitution/crime - look at more programs for youth to reach them before they get really hooked in these activities
- Poverty - contributes to crime rate, need proper support programs like employment/ training/upgrading
- Student retention - education needs to be relevant. Also need feeding programs in all schools in the area
- Need to feel safe here!!!
- Reduce the crime rate - get the police off their butts and out of that downstairs office. All they do is talk to each other all day!
- License landlords. If they can't maintain/fix their homes to a certain level, take it away. No one should have to live like an animal!
- Come up with a sweat equity program so that more properties are maintained
- We're not going to feel good about this area until we clean up the problems. A new name and logo are nothing but window dressing

**North Central  
Community Facility  
Feasibility Strategy  
April 4, 2003**

An ad hoc committee to develop a strategy for the feasibility of an integrated service delivery approach to community services in the North Central neighborhood was organized in the fall, 2002. The committee stakeholders are as follows:

- City of Regina
- File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
- North Central Community Association
- Treaty Four Urban Services
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
- Regina Metis Sport and Culture
- Department of Community Resources and Employment
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Regina Police Service
- Regina Public School Board
- Regina Catholic School Board
- Saskatchewan Housing Corporation
- Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee

The Committee decided to investigate the need for an integrated, inter-agency approach to services in North Central, and define a business case for a community facility, including compatible partners; priorities for services and programs; location and land use analysis; financial feasibility; and an implementation plan for capital and operational expenses.

Step one in the feasibility strategy was to research the service and program needs of the North Central neighborhood from the resident's perspective. The City of Regina, in conjunction with the North Central Partnership Project, agreed to research and gather information that would provide the committee with a view to the needs and preferences of the residents in order to assist the committee in determining future action related to an integrated service model.

Service and Program Needs Assessment

The purpose of this step in the strategy development is to identify and discuss the vision for North Central in terms of service and program needs. The analysis of the vision and needs will assist in defining an integrated service model for North Central which reflects the community's aspirations. In order to gain the perspective of the neighborhood residents and agency representatives and service providers, community members residing in North Central were consulted to identify the types of services needed in North Central. In addition, research

into recent reports prepared for the United Way of Regina and Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee, and Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services was completed.

### Information Sources

- A facilitated public meeting was held in conjunction with the North Central Community Association, the North Central Partnership Project, and the City of Regina. Forty-five residents, (approximately one-quarter self-declared as Aboriginal) gathered in March to discuss the types of programs and services used and needed by residents of North Central
- Two focus groups were facilitated by the North Central Partnership Project involving sixteen residents of the North Central neighborhood representing a good cross section of the population
- The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Treaty Four Urban Services were consulted to gather their insight into the issues facing First Nation people in North Central, and the types of programs and services that would address the issues
- A variety of recently published government and community based studies and research were reviewed, including the Ehrlo Community Services report done in 2002. Several of the reports were published in the mid-nineties, however, they were developed for long-term planning purposes and consequently their contents remain somewhat relevant today
- The City of Regina's Development Plan that studied the North Central neighborhood from a land use perspective

### Findings

#### 1. Services and Programs

Residents identified the following types of services and programs that they used most often, the majority of them on a day-to-day basis:

- Sportplex
- Churches
- Community Schools
- Library
- Neighbourhood Centre
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Arenas
- Golf courses
- Police services
- Fire services

- Day cares
- Health centres
- Good Food Box
- Chili for Children

Residents also identified programs and services that they would like to see offered or expanded upon in North Central as follows:

- more sports and recreation programs for youth
- more family oriented activities
- more fun programs and less intervention programs
- recreation programs were emphasized over intervention and treatment initiatives, particularly for families
- sleigh rides and other seasonal community building initiatives
- ice cream store
- grocery store
- enhanced library events
- craft/hobby classes in the neighbourhood
- job and career preparation classes
- art classes
- more classes at the Albert Scott Community Centre
- more after school programs, including latch-key programs
- community gardens
- indoor market gardens
- better customer services on calls and complaints to City and other authorities
- programs for families that need extra assistance
- parenting and budgeting classes to assist individuals with problems associated with poverty and family dysfunction
- encourage education by ensuring through a variety of measures and methods that children are attending school
- offer household maintenance services to assist residents in fixing properties, or workshops to teach residents home maintenance skills
- provide parenting education and other family support programs
- assist with issues of poverty by offering budgeting classes
- offer resume writing and other labour force related workshops

## 2. Changing the Built Environment and Reducing Crime

Residents were interested in seeing improvements in services associated with improving the structure and cleanliness of the as-built environment and reducing crime.

In terms of the as-built environment, the types of services identified most often were somewhat consistent with reports by the North Central Community Society (1997-98 Budget and Planning Proposal for the North Central Community

Society) and the City of Regina's Development Plan that cited the beautification of the neighbourhood as an important issue for residents of North Central.

Proposed solutions associated with this issue include the following:

- Improved services from the City's Bylaw Enforcement Division, especially related to being more timely and effective
- Community clean-ups being held regularly (certainly more than one a year) and having the neighbourhood well informed and brought into the process using a variety of techniques
- License landlords in order to curtail the incidences of poor housing created by negligent landlords
- More green space for children by having less crusher dust on the school grounds
- Garbage pick-up more than once a week
- Ensure that landlords take responsibility for tenant garbage largely to reflect the high mobility patterns in North Central
- Locate a Big Blue Box in North Central and have it located in areas most likely to impact the cleanliness of the neighbourhood
- Teach people how to maintain their home
- Ensure that people are aware of the resources available to assist with property maintenance

The City's Development Plan shows that North Central has twelve major open space sites, including seven school sites and five public parks. The quality of open space, particularly school sites in North Central, is a concern to North Central residents. The condition of schoolyards, particularly the Scott Collegiate site, is seen as a contributing factor to an unfavourable neighbourhood image.

Residents indicated that vandalism, incidences of violence, discarded needles and condoms, and other crime affect the quality of life in North Central. Some residents fear for their safety when walking in the neighbourhood, especially at night, and as a result drive everywhere. Others had concerns about their children's safety related to finding used needles on private and public property.

Residents want crime problems "cleaned up" and indicated strongly that improvements in service by the Regina Police Service are necessary. Residents clearly see the Police Service as being the party responsible for preventing and reducing crime in North Central, however, they acknowledge that members of the community also have a role to play but offered few concrete solutions in terms of programs and services.

Although the topic of used needles and condoms were a part of the discussions, programs dealing with addictions, prostitution, and sexually transmitted diseases received no attention in the facilitated discussions.

Programs involving volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent, have had difficulty establishing themselves in North Central over the long-term. Interest among residents in participating in these programs has been poor, based largely upon the belief of many residents that becoming involved in the business and affairs of someone else is not a smart thing to do in North Central. This line of thinking is consistent with residents identifying the need for conflict and mediation services in North Central, as neighbourhood disputes have been problematic. In spite of the type of concerns voiced about Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent programs, North Central residents have consistently reported that the people and the friendly neighbourhood are strong community assets.

In terms of crime prevention, residents identified the following measures to make North Central a safer community:

- better back alley lighting
- improve the policing provided by the Regina Police Service largely by increasing the presence of the Police Service in the neighbourhood
- encourage more involvement by residents in crime prevention initiatives other than Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent
- address the criminal activity

### 3. Target Populations

In general, residents indicated a need to have programs and services available for all members of the community with an emphasis on programming for families. The need for an emphasis on family is consistent with the demographics of the community if you consider the involvement of children and youth in the family structure. North Central has the highest percentage of children under aged 6 years in Regina and a high percentage of children under aged 14 years (1996 Census).

The need for programming for seniors, particularly dependent seniors, was also acknowledged. In spite of the fact that approximately 25% of the facilitated discussion participants self-identified as Aboriginal, issues related to Aboriginal or culturally sensitive programming were not raised during the discussions.

In addition, the 2001 Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan indicates that the Registered Indian population in Regina is 6.5% of the population, and in North Central is 31.9% or 3,886. Of the children and youth under 15 years of age, 48% are Aboriginal. This would bring one to conclude that although the residents have not identified cultural sensitivity as an issue, it would be prudent to be aware that the Aboriginal population is significant in this neighborhood and programs and services should recognize this.

Adult males were another target group not mentioned during the facilitated discussions; however, North Central has significantly more males than females. This is especially true in the aged 25-44 years category where 56% of the population are males.

#### 4. Coordinated Services

The need for a coordinated service centre to address the needs of the North Central neighborhood was discussed with the community. Currently, the human service needs of the residents are addressed by an extensive network of agencies that deliver a wide variety of community programs and services developed to assist those that are in some way distressed or disadvantaged. The human service agencies include departments of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments; public institutions; and community based non-profit organizations that provide direct services to those in need. It is estimated that there are approximately 40 human service organizations based in North Central (or with a mailing address in North Central), and many more services being delivered to North Central residents by organizations located outside the neighbourhood. Many of the residents have indicated that they or their family and friends do access the programs currently being delivered in North Central.

In spite of the fact that residents suggested that Police Services and the City's Bylaw Enforcement could reduce crime and improve the condition of the physical environment in North Central, few residents indicated that more human service programs were needed. At the same time, however, residents questioned whether effective programs were currently available to keep youth in school.

None of the participants in the focus groups or facilitated discussions identified a facility in North Central as a feature that would improve the day-to-day life of their family. When asked specifically if there was a need for a "coordinated program and service centre" in North Central, the majority of the residents spoken to did not see a need for a new facility. However, a good number of residents indicated that there is a need for coordination of programs and services in some manner. The residents identified that the current problems associated with program and service delivery are:

- a duplication of services and programs
- poor communication among service providers
- competition for limited dollars
- little communication with residents about the types of programs and services available in the neighbourhood
- a lack of understanding and coordination among service providers

The following comments regarding a coordinated service centre were noted:

- it will never work, it is not going to help
- the existing facilities should be expanded
- too much existing overlap
- there is a need for a supportive network of human service agencies
- access under one roof may bring problems
- not in my backyard
- needs to be community driven
- one centre in the immediate area may create the sense that only people in the immediate area can access the centre
- we are intelligent residents and we can already access existing services
- expand Albert Scott and the services provided by the North Central Community Society to include programming, such as a food-co-op, home economics, and transportation services
- the focus behind having a coordinated centre may be lost as organizations are required to compete for limited funding
- service providers take from the North Central neighbourhood and do not leave much, in terms of financial resources behind
- an administration centre may help organizations to coordinate the administrative aspects of their operation

The concerns of residents regarding coordinated services in North Central were not unlike those noted in recent publications involving discussions with service providers. The report, “Building on our Strengths” prepared for the United Way and Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee, and the “North Central Rejuvenation Study” completed by Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services, both stress the urgent need to coordinate services in order to address gaps and meet emerging needs rather than develop more programming.

The File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council have indicated a desire for a new facility in North Central offering services to First Nation people, similar to the White Buffalo Youth Centre in Saskatoon. The needs of the Tribal Council are related to supporting band councils by providing services to First Nation people living off reserve. The Tribal Council indicates that Treaty Four Urban Services has outgrown the physical space it occupies at “The Gathering Place”. The Tribal Council wants to deliver new programs and expand some of its existing services associated with housing and homelessness, training and employment, social development, health, economic development, education, and justice. The Tribal Council is interested in developing and administering a facility under the direction of the Chiefs and FSIN, and lease or rent space to other compatible services.

The Tribal Council’s proposed structure for a facility is somewhat different from the structure identified by Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services during its consultations with service providers in North Central. Service providers discussed, as an option, an “administrative centre”, which focuses on improving

efficiencies in administration and thereby strengthening services delivered to the community.

Residents offered the following suggestions to improve the services being delivered in North Central:

- increase access to information on programs and services
- establish a single access point number that residents can call to receive information and advice on services and programs
- establish a better referral system
- increase awareness about events and programming
- have the North Central Community Society newsletter regularly published and distributed

## Conclusions

Residents indicated their preference for programs and services that any other neighbourhood would have. Prevention and recreation programs were emphasized over intervention and treatment initiatives, particularly for families. Residents are asking for assistance in the prevention and reduction of crime and to clean up the neighbourhood. Some concrete solutions involving the community were proposed related to improving the as-built environment and reducing crime. These measures should be initiated by engaging the community.

There was a low level of interest in more intervention and treatment type programs. This may not mean that intervention and treatment programs are not necessary, but has more to do with the priority of the individuals participating in the consultations. It is suspected that transient populations and individuals severely distressed or disadvantaged did not participate in the consultations. As is common in many studies, even those using a variety of research methods, such as phone surveys or door-to-door interviews, it is difficult to get input from “hidden” or hard-to-reach populations.

Most people in North Central expressed a need for the coordination of programs and services but are not convinced that a facility in North Central will have the desired affect of integrating and coordinating services to residents.

The following four issues are of greatest concern to the neighborhood:

- crime prevention initiatives
- coordination of programs and services for residents with multi-needs
- community cleanliness/improvements to the as-built environment
- leisure time programs to engage the residents, particularly families, in community-building

The residents of North Central who participated in the consultations and focus groups indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to meet with other residents and to have input into the types of programs and service available in North Central. They welcome further contact and want opportunities to be involved in future initiatives developed to address the issues of greatest concern.

## THE NORTH CENTRAL VISIONING PROCESS

<p><b>Where Are We Now?</b></p>	<p><b>1. Community Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community consultation and focus groups</li> <li>• Review trends</li> <li>• Review other models</li> <li>• Survey of citizens</li> <li>• Identify primary areas of need</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data review</li> <li>• Document review</li> <li>• Survey</li> </ul>
<p><b>Where Are We Going?</b> <b>Where Do We Want To Be?</b> <b>What Do We Want To Be?</b></p>	<p><b>2. Advisory Group Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop alternative scenarios of future</li> <li>• Evaluate scenarios</li> <li>• Develop Vision Statement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small groups and taskforces</li> <li>• Best case/worst case</li> <li>• Worksheets</li> </ul>
<p><b>How Do We Get There?</b></p>	<p><b>3. Advisory Group Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Action Plan to achieve Vision</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small groups and taskforces</li> <li>• Oval mapping</li> <li>• Community celebrations</li> </ul>
<p><b>What Is To Be Done?</b> <b>Who Is Going To Help?</b></p>	<p><b>4. Confirm community support and celebrate Vision Statement and Action Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications and Marketing</li> <li>• Community meetings</li> <li>• Build partnerships</li> <li>• Taskforces</li> <li>• Break down Action Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>What Are We Going To Do?</b></p>	<p><b>5. Take Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Develop a Strategic Action Plan to involve people in community</li> <li>• Take Action – Do It!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break down Action Plan</li> <li>• Taskforces</li> </ul>
<p><b>How Well Are We Doing?</b></p>	<p><b>6. Monitor and Revise Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community progress reports</li> <li>• Celebrate accomplishments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reports</li> <li>• Community celebrations</li> </ul>

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING  
VISION GROUP  
MINUTES  
9:00 a.m., Friday, April 25, 2003  
Canada Centre Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canada Centre Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan**

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Present Lynn Allan, Dept. of Community Resources & Employment  
Donna Benesh, Dept. of Community Resources & Employment  
Leigh Burns, North Central Community Resident  
Janet Schultz, City of Regina (partial)  
Barry Dundas, NCCS  
Wanda Falkowsky, RHAC, RHA  
Troy Hagen, Regina Police Service  
Dave Hedlund, RQHR  
Vic Huard, United Way of Regina  
Dave Hutchinson, Asst. Supt., Regina Public School Board  
Kimbal Ironstar, Treaty Four Urban Services Inc.  
Cal Johnston, Chief of Police  
Rick Kotowich, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region  
Christal Lintott, United Way of Regina  
Daniel Messett, CMHC  
Lana Phillips, Dept. of Community Resources & Employment  
Evelyne Power Reid, HRDC  
Mary Sutton, Nurse, NCCS  
Tom Wright, NCCS

Support Staff  
Carole Aymer, City of Regina  
Robert Berthiaume, Facilitator, TeamWorks Consulting  
Jeremy Parnes, North Central Community Partnership, Consulting Service  
Robert Patton, Consulting Service

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Opening Prayer**

Mr. Robert Cappo provided the opening prayer in his Native tongue, blessing friends and food, asking for guidance for a successful meeting.

**Opening Remarks**

Guests were welcomed and invited to enjoy a continental breakfast. Mr. Berthiume, facilitator for today's meeting was introduced.

## **Introductions**

Guests introduced themselves, each providing a brief profile of their background.

## **Background**

Mr. Berthiaume

- Outlined an overview of today's meeting, noting supporting paper documentation provided to each attendee.

Mr. Parnes

- Provided background information on handouts, mapping and visual displays.
- Provided a history surrounding the consultation process and supporting information, noting the objective of today's meeting is to develop a vision statement and for next week to develop an action plan.

Mr. Berthiaume

- Spoke to the challenge of today's meeting, outlining the visioning process and the issues at hand.
- Outlined the methodology and process for this morning's meeting.

## **Short Break**

A brief recess took place.

## **Break-Out Sessions**

For each exercise, participants moved into three working groups.

## **Exercise One: Identify North Central community values and aspirations**

### Group One Feedback

- Bring up families well.
- Want children well educated with their own values.
- Residents have a strong sense of family.
- Residents value their own personal sense of safety.
- They appreciate property values.
- Residents have a retained sense of community.
- There is an appreciation of diversity.
- Long-term residents would like to remain living in their community.
- The negative image of neighbourhood is recognized.
- Residents finding that the basic necessities of life are so demanding, it is hard to focus on the big picture.
- There is recognition of the requirement to address basic needs in order to achieve broad horizons.

### Group Two Feedback

- Difficult to address “typical NC resident” due to diversity of neighbourhood.
- Recognition of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents and their differences.
- Pride in heritage, culture and identity.
- Sense of community and neighbourhood.
- Ability to survive on limited resources.
- Belief in their community – there is a yearning to learn, a desire for a better life.
- Recognition of lack of skills and that help is required.
- Strive for improvement.
- Recognition of need for better housing.

### Group Three Feedback

- Much diversity among residents in terms of values.
- Residents want to feel safe.
- Pride in their community and want rest of community to share that feeling.
- Pride of their life in the North Central, including housing.
- Residents want beautification of their properties.
- Value community services and amenities.
- Value ownership of community and sense of belonging.
- Recognition of sense of diversity.

## **Exercise Two - identify three newspaper headlines for the year 2020 and describe life in North Central as seen in that year**

### Group One Feedback

- Scott Collegiate test scores top country
- North Central housing initiatives model for country
- Community Cultural Festival makes CAA’s top ten attractions list
- North Central Community safest in Saskatchewan

### Group Two Feedback

- North Central Health Council holds community awards
- Home ownership reaches 80%; tax revenues peak in North Central
- 98% graduation rate from North Central high schools
- Mayor endorses “super” community service council
- North Central crime rate lowest in Regina
- North Central Cultural Exchange celebrates five-year anniversary
- Nature walk draws 200 participants
- Last KFC closes on Dewdney Avenue

### Group Three Feedback

- Mill rate soars due to capital projects in North Central; residents furious
- Sports Centre of Regina produces Olympic athlete
- Home ownership 90% in North Central
- Scott Collegiate graduate awarded scholarship
- First Nations Spring Celebration celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- North Central Multicultural Festival weekend a hit
- First Nations Heritage Museum celebrates anniversary
- North Central Mall expansion complete; holds Boxing Day sale
- North Central cadet becomes Police Officer/Police Chief

**Exercise Three - write a paragraph describing the North Central community of the future: what it looks like, what it feels like (focus is the year 2020), a vision statement**

### Group One Feedback

Our community will be a safe and thriving place that supports family and children to grow together to achieve their full potential. Working together, our community will reflect our cultural and economic diversity to support a range of business and social supports for everyone.

### Group Two Feedback

1. Improved and affordable comfortable housing, scaled to human needs, replacing used-up housing.
2. Safe community.
3. Preserving existing trees
4. Promoting aspect of walking (to amenities/services) in the community.
5. Youth-friendly community supporting those seeking identification, validation, acceptance and meaning, with the ability to see a future, a reason to hope and a sense of direction.
6. Community services available in centre.
7. Youth centre that assists individuals to see the future and the opportunity for choices.
8. See a family-friendly community rooted in social support, enjoying adequate housing.
9. Walking access to 'good food' grocery store and other services.
10. Physical and recreational opportunities.
11. General uplift in educational opportunities.
12. Provision of ways for overcoming barriers such as lack of money, addictions and poor housing.

### Group Three Feedback

North Central is more than an attractive and inviting neighbourhood; it is a community. The residents are unified across ages and cultures. Opportunities are both affordable and accessible. The opportunities are within the physical environment of safety, play, quality education, health care and innovation for all. Strength is gleaned from the residents' diversity and thriving and healthy families. The successful work of all community partners contributes to this vibrant community. North Central is a safe and caring community where pride in the community is a watchword.

### **Next Steps**

Mr. Parnes thanked attendees for their participation, referencing the expectation for development of the action plan at next week's meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, May 2, 2003

9:00 a.m., Canada Centre Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canada Centre Building

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Minutes transcribed by C. Aymer  
Vision Group Meeting April 25, 2003

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING  
VISION GROUP  
MINUTES  
9:00 a.m., Friday, May 2, 2003  
Canada Centre Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canada Centre Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan**

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- Present** Shelly Agecoutay, First Nations/Métis Urban Partnership  
Lynn Allan, Dept. of Community Resources & Employment (partial)  
Donna Benesh, Regina Intersectoral Committee, DCRE  
Leigh Burns, North Central Community Resident  
Larry Chaykowski, DCRE  
Barry Dundas, NCCS  
Wanda Falkowsky, RHAC, RHA  
Troy Hagen, Regina Police Service  
Dave Hedlund, RQHR  
Kimbal Ironstar, Treaty Four Urban Services Inc. (partial)  
Bruce King, DCRE  
Loretta Lerat, North Central Community Resident  
Tracey Mann, United Way of Regina  
Daniel Messett, CMHC  
Evelyne Power Reid, HRDC  
Ruth Robillard, RMSC (partial)  
Karen Rowan, United Way of Regina  
Janet Schultz, City of Regina  
Mary Sutton, Nurse, NCCS  
Mark Sylvestre, City of Regina  
Doris Wesaquate, North Central Community Resident  
Tom Wright, NCCS (partial)
- Support Staff**  
Carole Aymer, City of Regina  
Robert Berthiaume, Facilitator, TeamWorks Consulting  
Jeremy Parnes, North Central Community Partnership, Consulting Service  
Robert Patton, Consulting Service
- Regrets** Vic Huard, United Way of Regina  
Dave Hutchinson, Regina Public School Board  
Cal Johnston, Regina Police Service  
Rick Kotowich, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region  
Christal Lintott, United Way of Regina  
Lana Phillips, Dept. of Community Resources & Employment

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

## **Opening Prayer**

Mr. Robert Cappo provided the opening prayer in his Native tongue, suggesting that each person offer a prayer in his or her own language. Mr. Cappo blessed food and friends and those in attendance, and asked for guidance for a successful meeting.

## **Opening Remarks**

Guests were welcomed and invited to enjoy a continental breakfast.

## **Introductions**

Guests introduced themselves, each providing a brief profile of their background and their level of involvement with North Central.

## **Background**

Mr. Berthiaume

- Spoke to the issue of today's meeting, especially the creation of an action plan, referring to the previous meeting's accomplishments of creating a vision and the ideas surrounding that vision.

Mr. Parnes

- Reviewed the process which has taken place to date, highlighting the North Central community consultation during the last few months and the accomplishments of the previous meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Spoke to the essence of community development.
- Identified today's mission of perfecting the vision and identifying an action plan.

Mr. Berthiaume

- Spoke to the challenge of today's meeting, outlining the process for developing an action plan.
- Identified governmental monetary limitations and the challenges presented for community change.
- Noted skepticism in today's society surrounding governmental assistance.
- Noted community power is more widely distributed with individual characteristics.
- Identified community change currently being impacted by diversity, noting the issue of leadership.
- Outlined the methodology and the process for this morning's meeting, reviewing the "2020" visioning exercises for North Central which took place at the meeting of April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Outlined strategies for change.

- Summarized the challenges of today's meeting, noting the elements and principles associated with community development, emphasizing the key issue of sustainability.

### **Individual Exercise**

Each member was requested to address these two main North Central issues:

1. What are the needs of the community in North Central?
2. What are the assets that we want to enhance?

### **Short Break**

A brief recess took place.

### **Break-Out Sessions**

In both group exercises, participants moved into four working groups, with North Central residents and/or those employed in North Central taking a participatory role in each of the groups.

**Exercise One - taking their individual (two) main concerns to their respective working groups, participants were asked to identify the needs of the community and the capacities to be enhanced**

#### Broad-Based Categories Identified

- Health
- Economics
- Justice
- Apathy
- Education
- Employment
- Crime Prevention
- Infrastructure
- Recreation
- Safety
- Capacity Building
- Housing

Participants were asked to vote on the three most critical areas to complete the action plan in the short term.

#### Four Main Categories Identified

- Housing
- Capacity Building/Apathy
- Safety
- Education

## **Exercise Two - identify what the community can do and start the creation of an action plan**

Mr. Berthiaume distributed a handout of the basic framework for task completion, noting the following questions to be asked: What will be done? Who is responsible? When will it be done? How it will be done?

The following areas were assigned to each of the four groups:

Group One - Housing

Group Two - Education

Group Three - Safety

Group Four - Capacity Building/Apathy/Community Development.

### Group One Feedback - Housing

- Goal statement - all North Central residents would have access to affordable, suitable and quality housing
- Establish minimum standards for existing housing stock.
- Landlord/tenant registry
- Possibility of taking existing stock and converting to housing units (rental or otherwise)
- Maintaining current housing stock (retrofit)
- Increased home ownership elements
- Partners – City of Regina, Province of Saskatchewan, Federal Government Departments, First Nation and Aboriginal representatives, and local landlords and tenants
- Short term – element of education, landlord/tenant registry, conversion and ongoing maintenance
- Long term – funding/financial options, reference to increased home ownership

### Group Two Feedback - Education

- General awareness of history and diversity of area (public showcase of area peoples)
- Cater to all (educational) systems in the North Central area with community input
- Employment and career development

### Group Three Feedback - Safety

- Reduction of crime and people feeling safe in their neighbourhood.
- Community policing
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Addictions addressed
- Increased family stability and involvement
- Elder abuse reduction
- Improved access to grocery supply

#### Group Four Feedback - Capacity Building

- Maintenance of this process which has begun, so that North Central residents are aware their concerns are being listened to
- To ensure that residents of North Central are engaged and empowered to participate in meaningful ways to determine the goals and action steps that achieve their vision for their community

#### **Next Steps**

Mr. Berthiaume thanked participants for their valuable input, indicating that each participant would receive a transcript of today's proceedings.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Parnes provided closing remarks indicating that each person will receive a copy of the final report. Mr. Berthiaume, Ms. Aymer and Mr. Patton were thanked for their contribution.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m./ Minutes transcribed by C. Aymer

## **REGINA NORTH CENTRAL'S VISION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2020**

Regina North Central is a safe, healthy and caring community and a source of pride for the area's residents.

Located in the heart of the city, its strength is derived from the cultural diversity of its members working together and their emphasis on the value of family, seniors, children and youth.

The area's character stems from the well-kept homes and the mature natural environment of this section of the Queen City. The ease of access to the numerous facilities, services and educational facilities located within its parameters adds to its attraction.

Confident in its future with its many opportunities for community participation, home ownership, employment and business development, Regina North Central enjoys its reputation of being proud and forward looking, ready to meet challenges and embrace its vision for 2020 and beyond.

## **NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY VALUES**

- Caring
- Community pride
- Cultural diversity
- Community working together
- Premium placed on the value of family, seniors, children and youth
- Confidence in the future
- Forward looking

## **NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY GOALS**

- Good Physical Environment
- Greater Safety
- Healthy Community/Good Human Services
- Higher Proportion of Home Ownership
- High level of Employment and Business Development
- Extensive Community Participation
- Quality Education
- Ease of Access

## **PILLARS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR REGINA NORTH CENTRAL**

- Housing and Infrastructure - The goals of a good physical environment, ease of access, and a greater proportion of home ownership by North Central residents will be achieved through actions based upon the Housing and Infrastructure pillar
- Crime and Safety - Achievement of the goal of greater safety in the community will be achieved through activities based upon this pillar
- Business and Economic Development - The goal of achieving high levels of employment and business development within North Central will be reached via activities based upon this pillar
- Health and Human Services - The goals of a physically healthy community and the coordinated provision of human services will be met through activities founded upon this pillar
- Education - Fulfilment of the goal of quality education for the area's residents will occur through actions based upon this pillar
- Community Development - The goal of extensive community participation will be based upon this pillar

### **Support Mechanism**

While not a pillar, "Financial Resources" is a support mechanism essential for the achievement of the goals set forth in the Action Plan.